

In the Claims:

Claim 1. (current amendment) An acid-stabilized calcium carbonate slurry for use in making acid paper, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of water, calcium carbonate, and an acid-stabilizer selected from a group consisting of a water soluble calcium salt, a weak acid, a chelating agent, a mixture of a water soluble calcium salt and a weak acid, a mixture of a water soluble calcium salt and a chelating agent, wherein the water soluble calcium salt is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride, calcium sulfate, calcium acetate, calcium nitrate and calcium citrate, and wherein the stabilizer is present in an amount sufficient to provide an aqueous calcium carbonate slurry having an increased calcium ion concentration and pH of less than 7.

Claim 2-16 (withdrawn)

Claim 17 (original) The acid-stabilized calcium carbonate slurry of Claim 1, wherein the acid stabilizer is a weak acid capable of chelating calcium ion, present in a concentration of from about 0.001 to about 1000 millimolar.

Claim 18 (original) The acid-stabilized calcium carbonate slurry of Claim 17, wherein the weak acid is present in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 100 millimolar.

Claim 19 (original) The acid-stabilized calcium carbonate slurry of Claim 17, wherein the weak acid is a polycarboxylic acid, polyacrylic acid, sulfonic acid, polyphosphonic acid, or a compound containing a phosphonic acid.

Claim 20 (original) The acid-stabilized calcium carbonate slurry of Claim 19, wherein the weak acid is ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), or nitrilotri(methylene)triphosphonic acid.

Claim 21 (withdrawn)